G.R.S. IX—51

Previous references. 1924. (Distrs.)

File No. 25-23

Serial Nos. 165.

Later references.

Dis 26-23-627

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 5

Part B for January 1924

SUBJECT

~~General~~ proposals for suspension and remission of land revenue in the affected tracts.

To The Rev. Comm^r in Sup^r.

Letter no 445 dated 31st January 1924.

States that Govt request that this recommendation for remission & suspension of land revenue in certain tracts cannot be approved and that the present position bears no comparison ~~to situation in~~ to that of the year 1908.

11/2/24

G. R. S. III—1] 1914.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(Orders)

NOTES.

File No. 25-23

FILE HEADING.

Suspension and remission of land revenue in the affected tracts.

From

The R. C in Mysore.

D.O. No. C. 147/23-24 Dated 23rd Nov 1923 Received —

Diary No. —	Enclos. — Spare Copies.	Serial No. 1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

NOTES—First Sheet.

P. T. S

D
25-23

D 2733

G. R. S. III—3]

ROUTINE NOTES.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent .record]

M e m o.

The proposals of the Revenue Commissioner in regard to the grant of remission which has been reserved for separate examination in the Government Order of the 7th instant should be examined at once with reference to the action taken in 1908-09 and a detailed note should be put up before the 11th evening.

B. O.
12/12
Rev. Secretary.

4.o's are the subject for refee
R 2582-98/ R.M. 11-25 dt 7.12.25.
R. 3748-58/ dR. 502-17-10 dt 4.2.22.
Camp no 20-30. dt 30.5.1909.
R 4332-70 / Afri 105-08-1 dt 4.1.1909
R 6859-67/ Afri 175-08-2 dt 3.3.09
R 7405-14/ Afri 125-08-5 dt 18.3.09.
etc

2)
To

Asst.Secretary,
Revenue Branch.

Sir,
on the 10th 11th. the immediate
papers have to be attended to from
the Revenue Branch. Hence this
enclosed submitted.
Br
13/12

3) Submitted with a note as directed.
Br 13/12 13/12/25

P. T. O

N. B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the words should be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

W D 1880—GPB—1,50 000—2 5-21

Serial No.

N

R.

4) The proposals of the Rev. Comr. contained in his D.O. No. C. 147/23-24 of 23-11-23 are for relaxation, as a special case during the current year, of the rules contained in G.O. No. R. 3748-58/X.R. 502-47-60 of 4-2-22. They are as follows:—

(i) The time for application for remission to be extended to the end of Dec., the Sub Dy. Officers being instructed to start investigation in December as regards applications received till then.

This has been sanctioned in the G.O. of the current year.

(ii) Half the assessment to be suspended for dry crops where it has failed altogether or is less than 2 annas.

(iii) Half remission, in lieu of suspension, to be granted during the current year in cases where on examination of the Pahani & the Kaifiyat of local officers it is found that suspension of revenue might have been given in the previous year on application, or if the crops have averaged only 4 annas or less during the last 5 years.

In actual working this will be difficult to decide & may lead to difficulties.

(iv) Half remission to be granted in cases of lands under private wells, if the crop was 2 annas or less both last year and this year.

Serial No.

This is a radical change

(iv) In areas where crops have completely failed, no one should be deprived of the benefits merely on account of not having submitted an individual application if the Jamabandi Officer is satisfied that the omission was due to a reasonable cause.

(2) In the year 1908-09, several orders were passed by Govt. (from January to May) on individual references from the Rev. Comr.; and finally on the recommendation of the Rev. Comr. for further concessions, G.O. no. C. 20-30 dt. 30-5-09 was passed, in lieu of all the previous orders, on the subject of remissions & suspensions of the Rev. Demand for that year.

(3) As per the 1st proposal of the Rev. Comr., orders have passed in G.O. dt. 7-12-23 (para 11) approving of the extension of time till the end of Dec. 23.

(4) Re the 2nd proposal - it will be seen from para 4 of G.O. dt. 30-5-09 that half the assessment was ordered to be suspended where the dry crops totally failed or the out-turn was not more than 4 annas.

This has also been done

NOTE—Contn. sheet

Serial No.

E

8) 5) Re. 3rd proposal. In para 1 of G.O. of 30.5.09, remission of half wet assessment was ordered on lands classed as wet, on which wet crops totally failed for the Rabi year (1908-09) or the outturn was not more than 25 p.c. (The present proposal is to grant remission if 8 As-pension had been given in the previous year on application [or if the crops have averaged only 4 annas or less during the last 5 years.]

This can also be given

1) [This is vague]

E

9) 6) Re. 4th proposal. It will be seen from para 1 of the G.O. of 30.5.09 that half remission was ordered to be given on lands classed as wet under whatever source of irrigation on which the crops totally failed or the outturn was not more than 25 p.c. When the case of private wells falls under the term "whatever source of irrigation" or not is for consideration.

full text is appended W.L. R

R

10) 7) The last proposal is for modification of para 3 (4) of G.O. of Feby. 22

not

8) The Rev. Comr. does not include in his proposals the cases of minor inam lands & whole inam villages under

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 25 of 1923.

(6)

Serial No.	
E	Govt. management and lands classed as garden (These have also been dealt with in paras 6 & 7 and 9 & 10 of the G.O. of 30-5-1909 Subd Br 13/12 14/12-23 12) The Rev. Cmr's proposals are Contained in the paper flagged 'R'.
F	13) 1) Out of the 5 proposals he makes, No 1 has already been Sanctioned in para 11 of G.O. ~~No~~ issued on 7-12-23.
E	2) As regards ii and iv it may be seen from paras 4 and 7 of G.O. No 20-30 dated 30-5-1909, that Similar concessions were given in the year 1909. Remission of half assessment was given on all Wet lands under whatever Source of irrigation if the outturn 25% or less, and Similarly on all dry lands. The 2nd proposal of R.E. Stackly tallies with para 4 of G.O. of 1909 & as regards proposal No 4, here is this differe that the R.E. proposal relates to lands under private wells. But these would Come under the general clause of para 1 of the G.O. of 1909, So long as the lands is assessed Wet.
for dry lands only suspension was given	These two proposals may be Sanctioned. It is for Govt if para 3 of G.O. of 1909 may also be incorporated.
14	4) There is nothing Similar to proposal No

NOTE—Contn. sheet

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | File No. 25 of 1923.

Serial No.

R

Bill of R.E. in the Go of 1909. According to the Settlement orders, Suspension is to be given in the first year and remission next year if again Crops fail. As the assessments in the last year have been fully collected, it may not be necessary now to take up the question as to what the Crops was last year i.e. whether it was ten annas or less in that year in any individual locality. ~~So what is now being~~. ~~Half a~~ Suspension of half assessment may be granted this year, and whether the ryots would be able to pay the half next year may be left for consideration in the next year, when in cases, where it is felt it would be hardship if the payment is enforced, Govt may show concessions. It is perhaps undesirable for Govt to take action as proposed by the R.E. now.

16) 5) As regards Proposal 5 of the R.E. no special orders seem to be necessary, because Govt are now proceeding to grant Suspensions and remissions on individual applications, but on the condition of the area in question, and Govt ryots in the area will have the advantage in that any applications from them. (Please see para 12 of the Pro. 1909).

17) 6) In the Go. of 1909, the concessions are

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat. | File No. 25 of 1923.

Serial No.

15) are extended to mirasi lands paying full assessment and to lands in Inam villages which are under Govt management. The concession may perhaps be extended to such cases now also.

19) 17) In para 149 (iii) G.O. 9/1909, the area, ~~to~~ to which the Concession should be extended are specified. The Same has to be done now in consultation with the Rev. Court

14.12.23

20) Rev. Secy)

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 25 of 19 .

Serial No.

Recd. on DEC 20 1923
Reg. No. 4190

1) A tabular statement is put up, showing the various rules, the proposals of the Rev Comr the Concessions granted in 1909 etc. in other

2) Rev. Secy) 20.12.23

3) Dewan) See order on margin of draft at page 4 ante 24.12.23

4) A draft for is put up for approval

4/1/24 4.1.24

5) Rev. Secy) After approval by the Secy it will be typed 4.1.24

6) Typed draft shown urgent. There has already been much delay 4/1.

7) Today.

8) Typed draft submitted 5.1.24.

5/1/24

9) Rev. Secy) 5.1.24.

Revised draft put up 5.1.24.

10) Rev. Secy. Draft in order

11) Dewan) Keep lying the 7.1.24

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Recd. on JAN 7 1924
Reg. No. 4638

REVENUE SECRETARIAT 8 - JAN 1924 Fort St. George

Subs to Secy 8.1.24.

G. R. S. III-2]

Muzrai Secretariat

Dis. File No. 25 of 1923-24

Serial No.

35) Fair draft Lr. as

12.1.24

36) Fair draft Lr.

12/1/24

37) Pr appl: Mr Dalvi's leave letter specified in the margin. A list is attached subject to appl.

15.1.24.

37) Rev. Secy).

For appl

Pl 57,

Dewan) 41) order the notice included in file A.

42) Obs letter of Rev

43) Draft DSN

44) 2. Please note A

16.1.24.

Issue as ordered by the Rev. Secy.

16.1.24.

REVENUE 16 JAN 1924 SECRETARY.

47) D.S.N put up for approval

16.1.24 16.1.24

47) Fair draft

16.1.24.

2 G. O. No 256-60/ dtd Bangalore 16th January 1924 regarding the suspension and remission of land revenue in four taluks (Gubbi, Gundlupet, Hadagali and Koratagere) of the Kolar & Tumkur districts issued.

To. The R. C in Mysore
D. C's of Tumkur & Kolar districts
Superintendent, Revenue Survey & Settlement
Comptroller & Govt.

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0361—GPB—3750—1.22

G. R. S. III-2]

Muzrai Secretariat

~~Muz.~~ Hrs File No. 25 of 1923-24.

Serial No.

68) Fair draft of the D.S.N put up (Ref para 42)

17.1.24 17.1.24 17.1.24.

69) (Rev. Secy)

Secy. 17.1.24.

56) Dewan

51) [illegible]

51) Mr. Williams came round one day & discussed the matter with me.

Separate memo has been sent to the Rev. Secy. this day, about this.

21/1/24.

T. 9

DEWAN'S OFFICE
Recd. on JAN 17 1924
Reg. No. 4905

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0561—GPB—3750—1-8-22

D
25-23

(21)

Submitted to His Highness.

These papers relate to the proposals regarding suspension and remission of land revenue during the year 1923-24 in the affected tracts in the Kolar and Tumkur Districts.

2. The Revenue Commissioner, in his letter D.O.No.C.147/23-24 dated the 23rd November 1923, forwarded certain proposals for the consideration and sanction of Government. The first proposal for the extension of the time for receipt of applications till the end of December 1923 was sanctioned in Government Order No.R.2582-93/R.M. 11-23-104 dated the 7th. December 1923, and the other proposals had been reserved for further consideration. In view of the insufficient rainfall in the four taluks mentioned in the order for more than two successive years and total failure of crops, I have considered it necessary to approve of the recommendations of the Revenue Commissioner in regard to wet lands under tanks. I submit the order for the gracious perusal of His Highness.

Bangalore,
21st January 1924.

EWU.

D/25-23.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja

Subject.

51) *Government Order regarding suspension and remission of land revenue during the year 1923-24 in the affected tracts of the Kolar and the Tumkur Districts.*

539

51) **Order.**

~~KRW~~

22/1/24

51) Rev Secy

Ag

Memo 401 D 25/23

REPLY.

(To be written on this margin.)

218
D

Office of the Dewan of Mysore.

NOTE.

Dated.... 21st January ....192 4.

58) With reference to the Government Order No. 256-60/Dis. dated 16th January 1924, it should be made clear by issui supplementary instructions that no rem sion would be granted in the case of lands classed as wet, irrigable under tanks on which dry crops are raised and the outturn is more than two annas in the total of a normal crop of 16 annas.

REVENUE
21 JAN 1924
SECRETARY.

59) Draft Circ
To

The Revenue Secretary to Govt.
with compliments.

The main file was sent as per order to the Dewan Sir with a D.S.N. & has not yet been returned to the Secretariat 21/1/24

A draft G.O. is submitted for approval in the order

21/1/24

60) I have prepared a neat draft on the margin. Please put up fair draft

22.1.24

61) A fair typed draft submitted

22/1/24

62) Dis. Secy) 63) Approved

64) Issue

22.1.24

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G. R. S. III-2]

Muzrai Secretariat | ~~Muz~~ Misc File No. 25 of 1923.

Serial No.	
3	To. The Rev Commr. The Dr. of Agriculture The D.cs of Tumkur and Kolar. The Superintendent, Revenue Survey & Settlement. The Comptroller to govt. G.O. No 327-31/R. dated the 23rd January 1924. Issues supplementary instructions in the matter of remission and postponement of land revenue in the affected talukas of Kolar and Tumkur districts. GB 23.1.24
Confidential. D 244. 4	letter no D 28 of 23-24 dated 21st Jan 1924 from the Revenue Commr. in Mysore. Recommends that govt. may be pleased to reconsider the order dated 16th Jan 924 in view of the fact that the concession proposed is not the assessment should be remitted in the case of dry lands but that half the assessment might be postponed as that measure would be a great assistance to the ryots who have suffered by total failure of crops etc by issuing reference to orders dated 14th Jany & 30th May 1909 respectively All the papers connected with remission and postponement of land revenue have been arranged and put up in one single file. The present recommendation of the R.C is to postpone and not remit half the assessment on lands classed as dry in the affected districts, as that measure would, in his opinion, go a long way in easing the hardships of the distressed ryots Submd for orders with reference. This is always awaited the Secretariat order 24.1.24. GB 23.1.24 ~~Submd for orders~~

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0561—GPB—3750—1-8-22

P.T.O.

244

Muzrai Secretariat

Muz. File No. 25 of 1923-24

Serial No.

The draft about the postponement and remission of land revenue on dry lands was not approved by the Dewan and hence not issued.

Submitted for orders if the orders of the Dewan "I cannot agree to postponement of dry assessment anywhere now. First order need not issue". may be communicated to the R. C. with reference to his Communication regarding the postponement of half the dry assessment.

RVJ

Rev Dept a letter in reply

26.1.24

26.1.24

Draft letter to R.C. put up in appl.

28/1/24 Rev Secy

28.1.24 F.C. 29.1

Dewan

29.1.24

30/1

30.1.24

To

5. The Rev. Commr.

No. 445 dated 31.1.1924.

Informs him that Govt. regret that the recommendation made cannot be approved & that the ~~condition~~ situation bears no comparison to that of the year 1908.

DIWAN'S OFFICE Recd. on JAN 29 1924 Reg. No. 5288

REVENUE 30 JAN 1924 SECRETARY.

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0561—GPB—3750—1-8.22

Immediate & Confidential.

D.O.Letter No.C.147/23-24 dated the 23rd November 1923, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

I am submitting a report on the Scarcity Measures herewith. It was drafted before receipt of the Government Order of 22nd November 1923. As it will take another day or two to redraft and retype, I have taken the liberty of striking out and initialling portions on which orders have been passed in the above Government Order. I request that orders may be passed on the other matters, especially of giving the power to the Deputy Commissioner or Revenue Commissioner to fix rates of wages, and as regards free grant of Takkavi in deserving cases.

2. Regarding additional establishment required, I shall address Government again.

" Copy "

Report on Scarcity Measures.

(Confidential).

(18)

Introduction.

I have requested the Deputy Commissioners to submit full reports of the conditions and of their requirements by the end of this week and expect to submit to Government a supplementary report next week. But, as the policy that has to be adopted for tiding over the adverse seasonal conditions of this year requires to be laid down in some detail immediately so as to guide the District Officers in their work, and funds have also to be provided, I am submitting this report which is based on my tours and discussions with District Officers.

Present situation.

2. I visited the affected localities in Goribidnur, Gudibanda, Maddagiri and Koratagere in October 1923 and have now visited the affected areas in Dodballapur, Goribidnur, Maddagiri, Koratagere, Pavagada, Sira, Gubbi and Tumkur and have had the opportunity of meeting the Director of Agriculture, the Superintendent of Sericulture and the Deputy Commissioner of Tumkur who have all been touring over many of the affected tracts. The remaining areas in Kolar could be visited only after the Viceroy's visit. The conditions are serious in portions of the Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur Districts. The worst Talukas are Maddagiri, Goribidnur, Gudibanda, Koratagere and Dodballapur. Crops have failed over large areas also in Pavagada, Sira and Gubbi and to a less extent in Chiknayakanhally and Tumkur, and also in Malur and Srinivasapur.

The exact area where famine conditions would prevail during the ensuing five months could be accurately defined only after another fortnight, because if copious rains should fall over any of these areas, the cattle would be saved; some crops could be raised in the beds of tanks and below them; and conditions would be much less serious than otherwise. Even with copious rainfall, however, works will have to be provided in these areas for the labouring classes and other measures of relief under-taken.

19

Even at present, the need for labour for the Kanchenga classes is urgent in all villages in the affected tracts. Drinking water for men and cattle is also urgently required. Cattle have scarcely any fodder; the price of fodder in the Government depots, in spite of the reduced rates, is yet prohibitive; and the poorer classes have scarcely any means of saving their cattle. The prices of food grains have risen greatly during the last fortnight, and in some places ragi is selling at less than 7 seers a rupees and ordinary rice at less than 4 seers. I have seen dozens of people scrubbing for roots in the beds of tanks and have also come across cases of people going in search of the roots of aloes etc. Emaciation has fortunately not become general yet. But stray cases were noticed here and there. People have already left in considerable numbers in search of work to Periyanve to Coffee Estates and elsewhere. The condition of Kanchanas and of village servants is already very distressing.

What is more distressing than actual conditions as they exist at present is the fear that has possessed the people that things are going to be exceedingly bad for them. The idea is generally prevalent that the last years' of the cycle, i.e., the present and the succeeding two years would be mostly calamitous. Several people, some of them educated, have told me in quite a matter of fact way that half the people of the affected localities would die within these three years; and in several villages, the poorer people have said most pathetically that they would have to die. This pessimism is greatly due, apart from astrological fears, to the fact that the staying power of the people is much less than in 1908-09 on account of several bad seasons; and to the prices of food grains having become nearly double. I assured them, and the District Officers have been assuring them, that Government will not allow a single individual to die of starvation.

In these circumstances, no time can be lost in declaring

in unmistakeable terms that Government are pledged to prevent the loss of a single life through starvation; and that the co-operation of the people is required for preventing waste of Government funds in this endeavour.

If, by God's grace, the rains should fall abundantly in the affected areas within a fortnight, the cattle will be saved to a considerable extent and the need for drinking water wells and kattes will also decrease, to a considerable extent. Even then, work will require to be found for the Panchama classes and the poorer ryots for four or five months until the next mungar rains, excepting for short periods when they are likely to be engaged in sowing fast-growing crops in the beds of tanks and the Vaisakha paddy below tanks. The kandayam-paying ryots are greatly impoverished everywhere, having borrowed money at heavy interests and even should the rains fall copiously, they will also be requiring our attention during the same period.

Our Policy.

In my D.O.No.C.749/23-24 dated the 25th August 1923, I ~~xxxx~~ had stated that the policy of the Mysore Government in relieving distress was different from that prescribed in the Famine Code. The same matter has also been referred to in my letters Nos. C.147 dated 13th October 1923 and C.147 dated 10th November 1923. Government have not definitely stated that the same policy is proposed to be followed during the present scarcity; but from the measures that they have been kind enough to sanction, it might be presumed that it is their intention. The time has come, however, when on account of the wide area over which the crops have failed and the great cost of relief works that will have to be undertaken, definite lines of action have to be laid down for guidance. As Mr.Rangaswamiengar, in his report on the administration of relief measures in the Mysore State during the year 1908-09, has discussed in detail, the difference between a close adherence to the Famine Code and the measures adopted in mysore and the reasons for it, it is not

necessary to reiterate these arguments. Put in a sentence, the idea of Sir K.Sheshadri Iyer, Mr. V.P.Madhava Rao and Mr. A. Rangaswamiengar was that it is preferable to give fairly adequate wages on works of utility so as to tide over a bad season and thus prevent famine conditions, to starting test works in which a person would get only less than bare sustenance and nothing for his children. The measures that are immediately necessary are detailed below:-

Fodder and water to cattle.

(1) The Director of Agriculture might be authorised to start fodder depots at important centres on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioners. Such of the State Forests as have not been thrown open may also be thrown open immediately. The ryots may be permitted to take the better kind of cattle to the Malnad forests which may also be ordered to be thrown open for this purpose; and to grow fodder crops, without asking for sanction, wherever there is a little moisture and to amass cattle near large sources of water like the Mavathoor tank, Borankanve and Harikanave.

Takkavi and Land Improvement Loans.

(2) It is understood that Takkavi and Land Improvement loans are being given on a very generous scale in the neighbouring British Taluks, and a similar policy will have to be adopted immediately here. Our Amildars have been rather afraid on account of financial stringency to disburse the loans freely. If they had done so, the amount already sanctioned would have been exhausted much earlier. But, as it has now become a paramount duty to save the lives of the people and as the free grant of takkavi loans is a measure which will relieve distress to a great extent and the money would not be wasted, I beg to recommend that the Deputy Commissioners might be encouraged to grant loans very freely in the affected areas; and the Comptroller may be authorised to put me in possession of Rs.25,000 at a time for this purpose. I am getting weekly reports of actual expenditure. It is not easily possible to fix a limit

22)

to the amount that could profitably be spent on such loans; but, a scale of Rs.50,000 for each Taluk that is severely affected and Rs.25,000 for Taluks that are moderately affected, might be fixed for the present. As regards spending these amounts, the Deputy Commissioners have been informed that loans should be given only to small landholders and in small amounts, with the exception that where a man undertakes to sink an irrigation well or make any other land improvement that would give labour to the poorer classes in the village immediately and to pay them reasonable wages not less than what Government are paying on their works, loans might be granted in such cases also. Subsistence loans will also have to be given in deserving cases in the affected areas free of interest.

In this connection, the concession granted by Government in their order No.R.1824-9/R.M.11-23-11 dated 29th September 1923 for the Shimoga District, viz., of granting small loans not exceeding Rs. to Shikmidars might be extended to the affected Taluks. Under the Rules, distress has to be declared before loans free of interest could be granted; but as the Famine Code is not being followed strictly here, it would appear to be sufficient to authorise Deputy Commissioners to grant such loans in areas where crops have failed and not elsewhere. It may be mentioned here that several old people said that during the Famine of 1878-79, thousands of rupees were disbursed free, and not as loans at all, by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Meickle John, in sums ranging from 10 to 25 rupees.

Various Relief Works.

(3) I have suggested to the Deputy Commissioners that as regards relief works, tank maintenance works in which the advances would be repaid, but spread over a number of instalments on account of the present poverty of the people, should take precedence over other relief measures, and that as regards the restoration of tanks, including feeder channels, preference should be given to works that will bring in a better return to Government than to others. They have also been instructed

23)

that where the need for labour is urgent and there is no suitable tank maintenance work available, Village Improvement works should be started, but preferably Hondas and other works of lasting utility, rather than road works in which the money is mostly thrown away; and also that (as instructed by Government) in cases of extreme poverty and inability to pay the contribution due might be waived. Roadworks like the one proposed betwen Maddagiri and Hindupur where it is expected that the outlay would give a good return by the establishment of a toll gate might also be taken up. Village improvement works of small amounts would also be necessary to give relief to aged and infirm people in cases where the nearest bigger work is itself at some distance.

Irrigation works.

(4) The Deputy Commissioners have been asked to submit a programme so as to give employment to 15 per cent. of the population in the affected areas for five months; these lists, however, are very rough; and the programme has to be frequently changed in view of changing conditions. If orders are passed only after all the projects are scrutinised and passed, the necessary delay is likely to cause starvation; and just, as was suggested with reference to Takkavi, it is necessary in regard to these works, to lay down immediately the lines of action that might be followed.

(i) In the first place, an additional allotment may kindly be made immediately for Major and Minor Tank Restoration works; and also for collection of Road materials. It is understood that one work in the Tumkur District in an affected area had to be stopped for want of funds; and other works have to be started wherever tank maintenace is exhausted or is not available. Funds to the extent required for giving employment to the people in the affected areas for five months will require to be

ear-marked immediately; and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation may immediately be given a lakh of additional grant as already recommended and subsequently as required by him in consultation with me. What I wish to lay stress on is that it is impossible to forecast the future requirements adequately; and hence, the only course is to ear-mark sufficient Funds according to the Famine Code, and delegate power for spending money according to actual requirements, subject to due precautions as regards preparing estimates etc.

(ii) While estimates should be scrutinized and sanctioned as usual, the Executive Engineers should be given the power of starting irrigation works in anticipation of formal sanction when asked to do so by Deputy Commissioners. These two responsible officers have to be trusted to this extent as cases are likely to become exceedingly urgent and a question of saving lives within a very few days.

(iii) Similarly, tank maintenance works may be started by the Assistant Engineers on requisition by Amildars, in anticipation of the Executive Engineer's sanction.

(iv) Executive Engineers may be authorised to entertain additional establishment, chargeable to works for preparing estimates and supervision.

(v) Tools should be freely granted by the Chief Engineer to the Executive Engineers, and by these to Revenue Officers, a sufficient quantity being kept in stock.

(Note -- Instructions will be issued on these lines in anticipation of sanction, a lakh having been kindly granted in Govt. Order of 22nd November.)

Rate of wages.

(5) A very important point on which orders are necessary as regards the rate of wages to be paid on these works. Mr.Ranga-swamiengar has given reasons for giving higher wages that is provided for in the Famine Code. As already intimated to Government it is not proposed at present to start relief kitchens for giving cooked food to dependents, and as the rate of wages in the Famine Code is based on the fact of the existence of relief kitchens where food is given free to dependents or of payment in cash to them it follows that a higher rate is necessary. It appears to me that the rate of wages should be such as would provide for giving subsistence (according to the scale in the Famine Code) to one dependent and one child of the actual worker. If ~~hm~~ we note the rates that prevail in normal times in these areas, it will be found that the wages given to a labourer is sufficient to provide for the subsistence of himself and two to three dependents and hence, in order to prevent starvation of dependents, provision has to be made for at least this minimum scale. I beg strongly and respectfully to urge for the consideration of Government that unless at least this minimum scale is adopted, it will be impossible to prevent emaciation and starvation of children, as the poorer classes have large families; and as even with this rate it would be necessary for two or three persons in a family to come to the works for keeping children and dependents from starvation. If this scale is accepted, the task work in large works and the daily wages in small works will be adjusted to the prevailing rate of foodgrains in the locality; in such a way that this minimum might be obtained. The Deputy Commissioner, as I have already stated in my letter No.C.147 dated 10th November 1923 to the Revenue Secretary to Government, should be the authority for deciding the rates. It would cause needless revisions of estimate if the rate is changed too frequently on account of varying prices of food-grains. One rate will be fixed now, and will be increased if prices go higher still, or emaciation becomes noticeable.

Drinking water wells & Imprests

(6) ~~Exhaxx~~ The Revenue Commissioner may also be authorised to grant imprests, not exceeding Rs.500 to Amildars in affected

Taluks without further reference to Government as already recommended in the above letter.

Gratutitous Relief & Village Servants.

(7) Besides workers and dependents, there are helpless people who are not dependent on anybody, but live on the charity of the villagers in ordinary times. These are likely to die of starvation in these abnormal times unless helped by Government. This principle was accepted during the last scarcity season of 1908-09, nearly 450,000 units were given gratuitous relief at a cost of over Rs.24,000; and village servants were being paid out of this fund. I have urged this measure of gratuitous relief in my two previous letters referred to above, and beg to state that it is an essential part of our modified famine programme. The village servants who are required for Government duties and are not allowed to go on works may also be relieved from the same source. As funds for gratuitous relief have not yet been sanctioned, the attention of the Deputy Commissioners has been invited to Section 254 of the Famine Code in order that very distressing cases might be relieved in anticipation of sanction, (as reported already). The Deputy Commissioners have also been informed that village servants might be given some work of supervision over village improvement and other works and paid daily wages wherever possible. But on days when they are called off for Government work, they will have to be paid gratuitous relief for such days. The Deputy Commissioners will be asked to use as few men as possible for Government duties, so that the others may earn daily wages on the works.

Relief to Artisans.

Loans on Personal Security.

(8) During 1908-09, a large sum of Rs.50,000 was set apart for granting advances for artisan classes, such as weavers, and the same measure of relief would be necessary during this season also. This is provided for in the Famine Code (Section 216 et seq.) Permission may be given to grant these loans on personal security in cases where the borrower has no land.

Grain compensation Allowance.

(9) In 1908-09 grain Compensation Allowance was sanctioned to officials and menials drawing a pay not exceeding Rs.20 on account of ragi, the staple food-grain, selling at 12 seers per

rupee. The rate of ragi before this distress began may be taken as 10 seers per rupee. It is now about 7 seers in most of the distressed districts. The purchasing power of Rs.20 in 1908 was more than that of Rs.35 now. I beg therefore to submit that a grain Compensation allowance might be granted to officials and menials getting Rs.35 and less on the following scale for the next five months in the affected taluks:-

Rs.2/- up to Rs.25.
" 3/- from Rs.25 to Rs.35.

Grain Depots. (10) As the Defence of India Act is no longer in force and it is unlikely that commandeering of grain would be permitted now under an Ordinance of Government, all that can be done is to minimise the profits of the middle man and I beg to suggest that free permission might be granted to District Boards and Municipalities to utilise the balances at their disposal for granting advances to respectable and public-spirited men for selling ragi at the cheapest rate possible in the locality. The Co-operative Societies might also be stimulated to start Grain Depots and the Revenue Commissioner may be authorised to sanction imprests to Amildars not exceeding Rs.500 in each case, in addition to the imprests for works, for starting grain depots in areas that are not taken up by Municipalities and District Boards. If the rains should completely fail, the question of passing an Ordinance will also have to be seriously considered, as the people are suffering greatly from profiteering in food grains.

Remission. (11) Government Order No.R.3748-58/L.R.502-17-10 dated 4th February 1922, provides for suspension of half assessment in the first year of failure of crops, and requires that applications should be submitted in individual cases before the end of November to the Amildar. On account of the deep distress that is likely to occur this year and the fact that in the areas adjacent to Hindupur and Madakasira Taluks, the crops have not been satisfactory for a series of years and the people are greatly impoverished and as remissions in the adjacent villages of British India are being freely given in accordance with

their rules, it is recommended that our rules may be relaxed as a special case during the current year in the following five respects:-

i. The time for application for remission may be extended up to the end of December; the Sub Division Officers being however instructed to start investigation in December as regards applications received till then.

ii. Half the assessment might be suspended for dry crops in areas where it has failed altogether, or is less than 2 annas.

iii. In cases where on examination of the Pahani and the knowledge of the Local Officers, it is found that suspension of revenue might have been given in the previous year if application had been made or if the crops have averaged only four annas or less during the last five years, half remission might be granted during the current year in lieu of suspension. Suspension will not give relief to the people in these areas, as they would be greatly indebted next year also.

iv. In cases of lands under private wells, if the crop was 2 annas or less, both last year and this year, half remission may be granted.

v. In areas where crops have completely failed no one should be deprived of these benefits merely on account of not having submitted an individual application, if the Jamabandi Officer is satisfied that the omission was due to a reasonable cause.

Conclusion.

(12) I beg that Government may be pleased to pass favourable and immediate orders on the above proposals, as the situation has become very grave and as these measures are necessary for the prevention of acute distress and deaths from starvation.

Sd. K. Chandy.,
Revenue Commissioner.

Proceedings of the Government of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore.

Read --

Para 11 of letter No. C.147 dated the 23rd November 1923 from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting certain proposals for the remission and suspension of Land Revenue during the year 1923-24 in tracts affected by drought.

Read also - G.O. No. 3748-50 R 4.2.24

Order -- No.

Dated Bangalore, the

In view of the unfavourable seasonal conditions in certain parts of Kolar, Tumkur and Bangalore Districts, and consequent failure of crops, Government are pleased to issue the following orders on the subject of suspensions and remissions of Land Revenue:-

1. Assessment on lands classed as wet: In this case ~~Or~~ lands classed as wet and irrigable under ~~whatever~~ tanks ~~Government source of irrigation~~, on which the crops have totally failed or the outturn is not more than ~~25 per cent of a normal~~ 2 as in the Total of crop i.e., ~~not more than 4 annas~~ one-half a normal crop. ~~in the~~ of the assessment ~~shall be~~ remitted. ~~In the case~~ of Lease year

~~2. In regard to~~ Dry lands which are being cultivated with wet crops, paying water rates, ~~they~~ will also be treated in the same way as wet lands.

2. In the case of ~~tanks under~~ villages in which wet crops has failed completely, remission may be granted even though individual applications are not made, provided the Huzur Jamabundi Officer is a very case 6 000

2.

satisfied by personal inspection that the remission is fully deserved.

9. In the case of lands under private wells, half the assessment may be remitted, when the out-turn is 2 annas or less during the current year as well as in the last year.

5. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to obtain from the Deputy Commissioners of the above Districts estimates of remissions and suspensions of revenue during the year 1923-24 based on the foregoing principles and forward them to Government before the 31st January 1924. The concessions should not be given indiscriminately throughout the Districts named but should be strictly limited to the affected tracts, which, after due enquiry, are declared by the Deputy Commissioners to be deserving of the concessions. A list of villages to which the concessions are so extended should be furnished to Government for information. Government direct that all possible care should be taken in selecting the areas, and granting the concessions and that every application for remission or suspension should be thoroughly investigated before the same is sanctioned.

Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

To

The R.C.
The D.Cs of Bangalore, Tumkur and Kolar Dts.
The Supdt. Rev.Sur.& Sett.
The Comptr.
Press Table.

May this e.c. be printed?

Subject to the orders mentioning
17.1.24. Secretary of State's principles
in which remissions &
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of State.

17.1.24

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proceedings Ms are
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Personally
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for 17/1/24

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Proceedings of the Government of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore.

R e a d:-

G.O. No.3748-58 dated 4th February 1922 issuing revised rules in the matter of suspension and remission of wet - assessment on tank-irrigated lands.

2.Para 11 of letter No.C.147 dated 4th November 1923 from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting certain proposals for the remission and suspension of Land Revenue during the year 1923-24 in tracts affected by drought.

Order No. 256-60/Rs. 25-23-2

Dated, Bangalore, 16.1.1924.

Government passed certain general orders, in the Government Order read above on the subject of granting suspension and remission of wet assessment on lands under tanks. The Revenue Commissioner has now submitted certain proposals which go very much beyond the scope of those orders and he recommends a general relaxation of the rule in the case of tracts affected seriously by adverse seasonal conditions in the districts of Kolar and Tumkur as a special case.

In G.O.No.R.2582-93/R.M.11-23-104 dated 7th December 1923, the time prescribed for submitting applications for such relief has been extended up to the end of December 1923, and Government are now pleased as a very special case to relax the general rules under which suspensions and remissions can be granted, in the taluks specified in the margin,

Goribidnur
Gudibanda
Maddagiri
Koratagere

of the two districts of Kolar and Tumkur which have suffered seriously on account of insufficient rainfall for more than two successive years and to order as follows:-

Assessment on lands classed as wet.

1. In the case of lands classed as wet and irrigable under tanks on which the crops have totally failed or the out-turn is not more than two annas in the total of a normal crop, one-half of the assessment instead of being suspended for one year shall be remitted.

2. Individual applications need not be insisted upon and tracts affected adversely may be dealt with together - the rules of inspection before granting remission already prescribed being followed in respect of each survey number.

3. Government are not prepared to accept the recommendation of the Revenue Commissioner to suspend half the assessment in the case of failure of crops on dry lands as they see no justification

now for departing from the established principle upon which the dry lands have been and are to be assessed at each revenue settlement.

1957.

Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

To

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore
The Dy. Commissioners of Tumkur,
and Kolar Districts.
The Superintendent, Revenue Survey
and Settlements.
The Comptroller to Government.

~~PRESS TABLE~~

Proceedings of the Government
of H.H. the Maharaja of
Mysore.

Read:-

G.O. No. 356-60/Dis. dated the 16th January 1924 issuing certain rules for the suspension and remission of Land revenue during the year 1933-34 in the affected taluks of Kolar and Tumkur Districts.

Order No. 327-31/D 25-23-3

Dated, Bangalore the 23rd January 2[illegible]

In continuation of the Government order read above, Government are pleased to direct that the concession regarding wet lands therein referred to apply only to lands actually cultivated with wet crops in the year and that in para 1 of the above order, Government directed that one half of the assessment shall be remitted in cases of lands classed as wet and irrigable under tanks on which the crops have totally failed or the out-turn is not more than two annas. Government are pleased to direct that this rule will apply irrespective of the crop raised, whether wet or dry, and that no remission shall be granted in the case of such lands on which dry crops are raised and the out-turn is more than two annas in the total of a normal crop of 16 annas. The absence of wet crop will not constitute by itself, a ground for

granting remission unless the out-turn is not more than 3 annas.

Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

To

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

" Deputy Commissioners of Kolar & Tumkur Districts.

" Superintendent, Revenue Survey & Settlements.

" Comptroller to Government.

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No. D.28 of 23-24.

Office of the Revenue Commissioner
in Mysore,
Bangalore. 21st January 1924.

Confl

From

K. Chandy, Esquire, B.A.,

Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Revenue Department, Bangalore.

D
25-23-4

Sir,

With reference to the last paragraph of Government Order No. 256-60/Dis. dated the 16th January 1924 declining to sanction the suspension of half the assessment on lands classed as dry in the tracts affected by drought during the year 1923-24, I have the honour to state that the decision conveyed in the order is likely to cause a good deal of hardship on the ryots who have suffered by a total failure of crops during the present season of distress. I beg therefore to recommend that Government may be pleased to reconsider the order in view of the fact that the concession proposed is not that the assessment should be remitted in the case of dry lands but that half the assessment might be suspended. This concession will merely have the effect of postponing the recovery of the assessment and give some more time for payment which will doubtless be greatly appreciated by the ryots who quite understand the exact nature of the concession offered and realise that they could not possibly expect any remission in the case of assessment on dry lands in accordance with the established principle on which such lands are to be assessed at each revenue settlement.

I may in this connection invite reference to Government Order No. R. 43-32-70/Agri. 105-08-1 dated the 4th January 1909 and Government Order No. 20-30 dated the 30th May 1909 from which it will be seen that during the last distress of 1908-09, Govern-

ment

Government were pleased to order the suspension of one half of the assessment on lands classed as dry where crops had totally failed or their outturn was not more than 25 per cent. of a normal crop.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Revenue Commissioner.

VRR/5.

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SUBJECT .....

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Diary No. of letter replied to _____

Muzrai Secretariat

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Date of issue 31-1-24

Signed by M. T. Ramanya

Section Dc8

File No. 25-23

Serial No. 5.

No. 445

To

The Revenue Comm^r
— in Mysore

Sir,

with reference to the correspondence ending with your letter no D 98/23-24 dated the 9th January 1924, requesting a reconsideration of the Govt order no 456-66/Dis dated 16th Jany 1924 declining to sanction the Dispensation of the assessment

over.

Sir [illegible], I am
directed to state that
Govt regret that the
recommendation cannot
be sanctioned: the Estimates bear
no Campn for that purpose in the year 1908

I have etc

Y
Soil

28.1.08.

Rec'd 29/1.

Rec'd by post

No 3

List of enclosures.

Copied by

Examined by

WD 0563—GPB—2,500—27-7-22